

LOWELL SCHOOL COMMITTEE

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Date: July 15, 2027

Time: 6:30PM

Location: City Council Chamber, 375 Merrimack Street, 2nd Floor, Lowell, MA 01852

Members of the public can view the meeting via LTC. Those wishing to speak about a specific agenda item must register in advance by emailing the Superintendent. Please include the agenda item, as well as your phone number and email address so we can provide a Zoom link for access. The email address is skeo@lowell.k12.ma.us. If you do not have access to email, you may contact us at 978-674-4324. All requests must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting.

1. SALUTE TO FLAG

2. ROLL CALL

On a call at 6:31 p.m., members present were, namely: Ms. McFadden, Mr. Bahou, Mr. Conway, Ms. Delrossi, Mayor Gitschier and Ms. Martin (on Zoom). Mr. Lay was absent.

3. MINUTES

3.1. The Approval of the Minutes of the Regularly Scheduled Lowell School Committee Meeting of June 17, 2026

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on June 17, 2026 and June 29, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

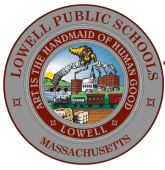
3.2. The Approval of the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Lowell School Committee of June 29, 2026

Ms. McFadden moved to accept and place on file the minutes of the Special and Regularly Scheduled School Committee meetings that were held on June 17, 2026 and June 29, 2026; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

4. PERMISSION TO ENTER

4.1. Permission to Enter - July 15, 2026

Mr. Bahou moved to remove Mass Statewide Painting in the amount of \$96,000 and to approve the remaining contracts on the Permission to Enter; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).



5. MEMORIALS

5.1. Jean Rurak, Wife of Tadeusz H. "Ted" Rurak, former Deputy Superintendent of Lowell Public Schools.

6. MOTIONS

6.1. [By Danielle McFadden]: Request the Superintendent to work with the appropriate department(s) to provide a report on the current efforts to address rodent issues within Lowell Public Schools, including the district's current pest control contract and services provided, mitigation efforts currently underway, and recommendations for additional measures or resources that could be implemented to effectively address and prevent future infestations.

Ms. McFadden moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

6.2. [By Eileen DelRossi]: Request the superintendent to report on the repair projects for each of the school's and what the status is for the opening of the school year. (Include the Jeanne D'Arc school)

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

7. SUBCOMMITTEES

7.1. Approval of the Minutes of the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee Meeting of June 18, 2026

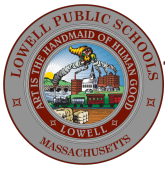
Ms. Martin, Chairperson of the Curriculum and Instruction Subcommittee, previously reported on this matter at an earlier meeting.

Ms. Martin moved to accept the report as a report of progress; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

8. REPORTS OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

8.1. Strategic Plan Update - Goals, Actions, and Deliverables

Superintendent Skinner provided an update on the district's goals, actions, and deliverables. The report highlighted the substantial progress Lowell Public Schools (LPS) made over the past year toward establishing a districtwide Culture of Continuous Improvement as a defining feature of the organization. Rather than introducing another initiative, this work focused on building a shared set of beliefs, expectations, and practices to guide continuous improvement in teaching, learning, and organizational effectiveness. The Superintendent convened a representative working group of administrators and instructional coaches to collaboratively define the dispositions, systems, and organizational structures that would support a culture of continuous improvement in Lowell. Through a series of meetings, the group refined the



district's vision, emphasizing intentional collaboration, high expectations, a growth mindset, and the structures necessary to sustain ongoing improvement. The report also informed the Committee that the finalized vision was presented publicly at the July 16, 2025, School Committee meeting and subsequently shared across the district and broader community. An accompanying communications plan kept the vision and its implementation visible through regular updates in the LPS Connector, local media outlets, and other district communication channels.

Ms. Martin inquired if this was the summative for the Superintendent's evaluation.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge stated is correct and that it is on the Key Performance Indicators Report Q4 report.

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.3 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

8.2. Finance Updates

Dr. Pinto, Assistant Superintendent of Finance provided a report informing the Committee informed that that the Finance office is fully engaged in several activities to successfully close out the fiscal year for 2026 (FY26) and open the new fiscal year 2027 (FY27). The update also included the following highlights:

- **Budget:** The Finance Office is completing the FY26 closeout and preparing for FY27. Over 110 budget meetings were held with district leaders and budget managers to support resource allocation and strengthen communication. Staff continue to monitor expenditures to ensure a successful fiscal year close.
- **Operations:** Administrative Assistants received year-end financial training, and work continues on districtwide Standard Operating Procedures to improve consistency in budgeting, grants, contracts, and purchasing.
- **Information Technology:** Implementation of a biometric time clock system for select employees is underway, with pilot testing completed and broader rollout planned.
- **Grants, Payroll, and Purchasing:** FY26 grant and purchasing deadlines were met, a new paperless substitute timesheet process was implemented, and year-end financial activities are underway to ensure accurate reporting and timely payments.

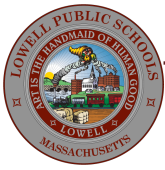
Mayor Gitschier asked why only certain departments are using time clocks.

Dr. Pinto stated that it was negotiated with those unions.

Mayor Gitschier asked if we tried with the other unions.

Dr. Pinto stated that the other unions didn't embrace it.

Mayor Gitschier stated that it's something that we should include in our next round of negotiations.



Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.3 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

8.3. Key Performance Indicators Report Q4

Ms. Crocker-Roberge, the Assistant Superintendent for Schools & Leadership, provided the Key Performance Indicators Q4 report to the Committee. The report included update on the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs). The KPIs identified fall within four main categories:

- Academics and Student Achievement
- Safe and Welcoming Environment
- Operational Efficiency
- Family and Community Engagement

Key highlights are presented within each area with supporting tables and charts that illustrate the metrics and comparisons from the previous year. Data is also disaggregated by reporting groups where applicable.

Mr. Bahou requested a accumulative summer for reports Q1 through Q4.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge stated that it can be provided and that it is also part of the cumulative report with the Department of Elementary & Secondary Education.

Mayor Gitschier asked about the 6% reduction in grades K-12.

Ms. Crocker-Roberge responded that this is the first year we are seeing a reduction and that it is closely being watched and tracked.

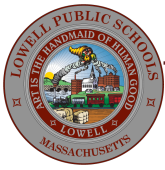
Mr. Bahou moved to accept the following Reports of the Superintendent 8.1 through 8.3 as reports of progress; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

9. NEW BUSINESS

9.1. Approval to Accept and Expend Allocated FY27 Awards

These grant funds have been secured by the Lowell Public Schools through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Early Education and Care, Lowell Cultural Council, One8 Foundation, and Massachusetts Life sciences center (MLSC).

Ms. McFadden moved to approve, accept and expend the allocated FY27 awards; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).



9.2. Budget Modification Request

Mr. Bahou moved to approve the budget modification in the amount of \$996,136.79; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

9.3. Proposal to Change the BRIDGE Program Wednesday Schedule

The district would like to modify the BRIDGE Program's Wednesday schedule for the 2026–2027 school year by replacing the current late-start schedule with an early-release schedule. The primary reason for this request is student attendance. During the 2025–2026 school year, it became evident that the Wednesday late start negatively impacted student attendance. Many of the students served by the BRIDGE Program struggle with chronic absenteeism, and the delayed start to the school day appears to contribute to this challenge. By moving to an early-release schedule, students will maintain a consistent morning routine throughout the week, reducing one potential barrier to attendance while preserving valuable collaboration time for staff.

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the change to the BRIDGE Program Wednesday Schedule; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

9.4. Lowell Public Schools Handbook Policy Updates SY26/27

Ms. Brown-LeGrand, Assistant Superintendent for Student Support Services provided the updated revisions to the elementary, middle and high school handbooks as part of the annual review process for the 2026-2027 school year. These updates are designed to ensure our policies remain clear, current, and aligned with district priorities, DESE guidelines, and the best interests of our students and families.

Ms. Delrossi moved to approve the change to the Lowell Public Schools Handbook Policy Updates FY26/27; the motion was seconded by Ms. Martin. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

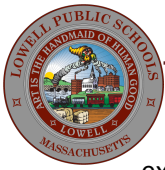
9.5. Doctoral Research Proposal, Emmanuel Fairley-Pittman

Emmanuel Fairley-Pittman, a doctoral candidate at Boston University, has received Institutional Review Board (IRB) approval to conduct a study examining the factors that support the retention and satisfaction of K–12 male educators in years 4–10 of their careers. He is requesting permission to conduct the research within Lowell Public Schools to better understand district practices that contribute to teacher retention and stable learning environments.

Ms. McFadden moved to approve the Doctoral Research Proposal for Emmanuel Fairley-Pittman; the motion was seconded by Mr. Bahou. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

9.6. Doctoral Research Proposal, Killian McAnaney

Killian McAnaney, a doctoral candidate in Leadership in Schooling at the University of Massachusetts Lowell, is requesting permission to conduct a research study in Lowell Public Schools. The study will



examine whether a four-week Build Your Team/Primary Person Challenge lesson in ninth-grade Freshman Seminar improves students' sense of school belonging and will explore barriers students face in identifying trusted adults, particularly among high-needs students whether High-Needs students experience greater difficulty connecting with supportive adults

Mr. Conway moved to approve the Doctoral Research Proposal for Killian McAnaney; the motion was seconded by Ms. Delrossi. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

10. CONVENTION/CONFERENCE REQUESTS

10.1. LHS Out of State Overnight Travel - Moultonborough, NH

Ms. Martin moved to approve the convention/conference request; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

11. COMMUNICATIONS

11.1. LHS - Summer Program Graduation Date

Mr. Bahou moved to accept the communication and to place it on file; the motion was seconded by Ms. McFadden. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

12. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McFadden moved to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.; the motion was seconded by Mr. Conway. The motion passed with 6 yeas, 1 absent (Mr. Lay).

Respectfully submitted,

**Liam Skinner, Superintendent and
Secretary to the Lowell School Committee**

LS/mes